

REMARKS

Upon entry of the foregoing Amendment, claims 11, 14-18, and 21-26 are pending in the application. Claims 11, 14-18, 21-23 have been amended. Claims 12-13 and 19-20 have been cancelled. Claims 24-26 have been newly added. Applicants believe that the foregoing Amendment does not add new matter. In view of the foregoing Amendment and the following Remarks, allowance of all the pending claims is requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 13 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the subject matter of any intervening claims. As such, Applicants note that independent claims 11 and 18 have been amended to recite similar subject matter as previously recited in allowable claims 13 and 20. Thus, independent claims 11 and 18 each recite subject matter that the Examiner has identified as allowable.

Applicants also note that claims 14-17 and 21-26 each depend from and add features to one of independent claims 11 and 18. Thus, claims 14-17 and 21-26 each recite allowable subject matter for at least the reason that they depend from independent claims that recite subject matter identified as allowable.

Accordingly, for at least the reason that all of the pending claims either recite subject matter that the Examiner has identified as allowable or depend from a claim that recites subject matter that the Examiner has identified as allowable, allowance of all of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 11, 14-18, and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,985,929 to Tsuyama ("Tsuyama") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,384,701 to Stentiford et al. ("Stentiford"). This rejection should be withdrawn for at least the reason that claims 11, 14-18, and 21-23 each recite subject matter that the Examiner has identified as allowable.

More particularly, as discussed above, independent claims 11 and 18 have been amended to recite similar subject matter as previously recited in claims 13 and 20, which the Examiner indicated would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, while claims 14-17 and 21-23 each depend from and add features to one of allowable independent claims 11 and 18.

Accordingly, for at least the reason that each of claims 11, 14-18, and 21-23 either recite subject matter that the Examiner has identified as allowable or depend from a claim that recites subject matter that the Examiner has identified as allowable, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection of the claims.

NEW CLAIMS 24-26

As indicated above, the Examiner has indicated that claims 13 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As such, independent claims 11 and 18 are allowable for at least the reason that they recite similar subject matter as previously recited in claims 13 and 20, while new claims 24-26 are allowable for at least the reason that they depend from and add features to one of allowable independent claims 11 and 18.

CONCLUSION

Having addressed each of the foregoing rejections, it is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action. As such, the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

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Respectfully submitted,

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